

# **The Snow Country Hunting Life of the Northern Nobleman and the Raptor Wife 北欧貴族と猛禽妻の雪国狩 り暮らし**

## **Final Volume - Story of the People who Live with Nature**

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LN Published by [Syosetu](#)

Translated by [Kudarajin](#)

PDF by swhp

## Chapter 127 - The New Blessings of Nature

When the short spring of the remote land was about to pass, Aina and Emmerich was to come back.

I estimated the time when the carriage would arrive, and went outside the fort walls with Sieg to wait for them.

The carriage arrived on time.

Aina came back dressed like a princess.

I met her several times during the year and half they've been away, but she feels more like an adult woman now.

Emmerich is, hm. Same as usual!

I felt happy that they're healthy.

The two of them left here rather awkwardly, but their atmosphere changed by quite a bit.

A soft mood that fit each other flowed between them.

We talked about doing a welcoming party tomorrow at my place.

Mother was full of motivation.

Sieg checked if there were any loose threads in the traditional clothing that was to be given to them.

The next day, Aina and Emmerich came as per our invitation.

While the meal was being prepared, we chatted over Arno.

Aina happily looked after my son.

I felt pleased, feeling that she'll become a good mother.

Then, Aina blurted out an absurd and problematic remark.

“I wonder when the Spirit will bring our child?”

To Emmerich, who was in a state of shock, Aina supplemented her words.

That children are brought by the Spirit.

The moment he heard that, Emmerich choked on the berry juice he was having.

Sieg was looking at me as if to say, *what's going on?*

The story about the Spirit bringing children is a village fairytale used to put children to sleep.

I got surprised that Aina believed in that.

Since they said that they married when moved into the countryside, so I, w-well, I thought that the two of them had already.....

I then discovered that Emmerich had only been protecting Aina.

Throughout the meal, Emmerich had a vacant expression.

He might be worrying about what he should do from here on.

After the meal, I picked out a suitable timing and took Emmerich out.

When I apologised about the village's fairytale, he forgave me, that it couldn't be helped.

I suggested that I could ask Sieg to teach her many things, but he told me that it's alright for now since Aina is still getting used to this new life.

Emmerich, what a great person.....

The two of us grabbed each other's hands and resolved that we'll work hard together.



Aina and Emmerich decided that they'll help out with 'The Crimson Eagle'.

Since I did have days where I was helpless because there was too much, I was really thankful.

I went into the kitchen with Aina, while Emmerich learned how to serve customers from Sieg.

I was worried about his poor language, but I decided to leave everything to the instructor.

Aina is, should I say as expected, fast at learning as cooking was her specialty.

She washed the dishes very quickly too.

The next day, maybe because rumours of having new employees, there were more customers than usually.

When I was apologising for the lack of seats to a customer that just came in, Aina came up to me.

"This store is rather small. The seats are full again."

"Ah~ yeah, it was totally out of my expectations."

Because, I didn't imagine that the store would be this successful.

If the weather gets milder, we'll be able to serve tea and food outside as well.

However, it's still a little cold so we could only serve customers inside.

While we were chatting, more orders came in.

I divided work with Aina and started preparing.



Since the store was not doing business today, I headed into the forest with Emmerich.

We fished by the lakes, and picked herbs.

In the middle, we decided to have the packed lunches our beloved wives made.

The mood was great as we chatted about how great the food our wives made were.

I brought the fish and herbs back home and asked Sieg to take care of them.

After a short break, I headed into the forest again.

Since there should be some honey now, so I decided to check the hives.

Emmerich said he wanted to help as well, so we put on proper protective clothing and headed there.

When we walked a bit, we soon arrived at the place where I placed the hives.

First, I placed dry grass into a metal bucket and set fire to them. This makes the bees well-behaved.

Before the smoke disappeared, I shut the lid.

After checking the equipment again, we slowly approached the hives.

Even if a bee lands on the body, don't panic. The bees are just investigating if it's a suspicious person.

"Emmerich, did you get that down?"

".....It's alright."

Emmerich looked a little stiff. Is he really alright?

I'm also still scared of bees. I understand how he feels.

“If you act confidently, they won’t attack.”

“I’ll do my best.”

First, an empty comb is placed of a honeycomb.

Since the layers are stuck together by wax, they need to be split using threads.

Thanks to working together with Emmerich, I was able to do the work in a very short time.

We took the box to someplace away from the hives to open the lid, but there was wax here as well so it didn’t open. I used threads to open them again.

The lid was full of bees.

Here, I opened the bucket where there’s burning grass.

When smoke passed by, the bees that were buzzing noisily all calmed down.

I gently took off the bees stuck to the top with a brush.

I placed my hand into the box and took out the comb. It was heavy, filled with honey.

The first layer is where the bees raise their larvae, while the second layer is where the honey is stored.

We only collected six frames of honey.

We returned home with honeycombs.

We decided to process the honey at my house’s yard.

First, the hive entrance is carved out with a knife.

Afterwards, the hive is continuously carved out.

The split honeycombs are wrapped in cloth, then pressed into jars using sticks.

Then, the cloths are hung, and we wait for the honey to drip naturally.

After a while, the honey is completed.

Thanks to Emmerich helping, the work was completed quickly.

From one layer of a hive, we collected six frames, which have enough for three jars, so we got eighteen jars of honey in the end.

“——Like so, we got honey!”

Mother and Sieg too were excited about the honey.

We put honey onto the pancake Ruruporon made and into warm reindeer milk.

On the triple-layered pancake, the honey was gleaming. It looks so delicious.

Sitting top of my lap, Arno stared at the jar of honey curiously.

“Sorry, Arno-chan, let’s have some jam grandma made instead, okay?”

It seems that honey isn’t fed to babies.

Apparently, for babies whose stomachs aren’t developed fully, they may get sick.

Though, such symptoms are apparently limited to babies less than six months old, but just in case, we gave pancake with jam to Arno.

On a special pancake made soft using reindeer milk, mother’s special jam was put on top.

After finishing the preparations, we started eating.

First, pancake with honey.

“Ah, it’s very rich!”

There’s an elegant sweetness, and the flavour is deep.



The crispy surface of the pancakes went very well with the soft honey.

Reindeer milk with honey tasted great too!

It really was worthwhile to try hard even as I trembled at the bees.

I shared some to the Rango family, Emmerich's family, the shop lady and to other people I am indebted to.

They were all happy, so I felt overjoyed.

I secretly dreamed that it would be nice if we could get a lot of honey, that it would become a special product of the village.



A month passed since Aina and Emmerich came back.

Though I didn't mean it, a slight change came to the store.

First of all, on days when Emmerich is working, there are more ladies.

I thought that it might be because Emmerich is handsome, but there was another reason.

According to a lady I met in the store.....

“That man, he tries his best even as his language is poor, you know? It's kinda cute!”

——Or so.

Aina too started socialising with the village ladies.

I felt glad that the two of them were doing well in the village.

## Chapter 128 - A Sudden Visitor — First Part

In the evening, a letter arrived after a long time. The sender was my father.

After he was dragged away, we exchanged letters once a month.

It seems like he wants to know how Arno is doing.

I had suspected that he did not receive my letters, but that wasn't so.

Rather, I think the power of a grandson (Arno) is amazing.

After dinner, I read the letter in front of my family as usual.

“Haru-kun, Sieglinde-san, mum, Ar-kun, Hello——”

The main body of the letter was very short. He wrote only one line.

——Dad, will be coming to the village soon.

“.....Erm, over?”

I checked if there was a second letter, but there was none to be found.

The date, how long he'll be staying, all the details were not present. Terrible. Too terrible.

Mother mused, “Dad's coming back~” in a carefree manner.

“Arno-chan, your grandpa is coming back.”

Having been talked to, Arno replied with an “Au”.

Recently, he could say things (?) such as “Nyu” or “Uu”. I think he will be able to say proper words soon. Recently, he started reaching out for his spoon as well, trying to eat on his own.

His teeth started sprouting, and he could walk while grabbing onto something. He could even play on his own. My father will be surprised to see my son’s growth.

“Dad, I wonder when he’ll come.....”

After hearing the carefree content of father’s letter, Sieg was smiling wryly.

*We should bake the scones that he likes,* as we chatted like that, there was a knock on the front door.

“Ye~s. Who is it~?”

“——It’s me.”

“Huh?”

*Me who?* I was thinking, but there’s only one person that has this low and calm voice.

“Grandfather!?”

I hastily opened the door.

Outside, there was my grandfather and my father.

I was so surprised that I thought that I might be dreaming for a moment.

“Eh, grandfather, dad, why,”

My head couldn’t process it.

From the sudden visit, I was so shocked.

“I really could not bear to let him go alone.”

“Haha, what low trust~”

“Of course, you idiot son!”

“W-Well.....”

But still, I was really surprised. To come on the day the letter arrived.

When I told them about that, grandfather was enraged.

It seems like he had expected that the letter arrived quite some time ago.

“I am utterly disgusted at your lack of common sense!!”

“Well, while I was working hard, the date approached really quickly.”

While I was staring blankly at their exchange, Sieg and mother came over.

“My, father-in-law!”

Mother greeted them calmly, while Sieg invited them inside.

Come to think of it, it's cold enough for white breaths to form.

Mother and Sieg went to the kitchen to prepare tea.

“How about dinner?”

“No, thank you, we already had some on the ship.”

“I see.”

I pulled out some chairs for them to sit down in the living room. However, grandfather was already off somewhere else for something else.

“Oh, Arno!”

He approached Arno who was sitting on a baby chair with a melty smile, after which he hugged Arno.

“You grew big. What a surprise.”

Arno started saying “Daadaa,” to grandfather. “I see,” he joyfully responded.

“Dad, I want to Ar-kun, switch with me.”

“You can do it later.”

Refused, father looked at me with a dejected expression. *I want to hug Arno*, his face seemed to say, but seeing grandfather chat with large smiles on his face, it was impossible to ask him to switch, so I shook my head.

“Ah, right. Haru-kun, I have a gift for you.”

“Eh?”

The moment I heard that, I could only get a bad vibe.

Father set the leather bag he had, onto the table.

“——W-What is this.”

The large bag was squirming.

“Y-You, what did you bring along!?”

Seeing the leather bag rustle, grandfather lashed out.

It seems like father brought it while grandfather didn't notice it.

"D-Dad, what's, this?"

"A cat."

"Ha?"

"It was shivering in front of the fort gate, so I thought it was sad~"

No, but, a cat? Why outside?

It seems like he captured it very dextrously that even grandfather did not realise it.

"Ah, could it be!!"

Remembering Aina's cat, I quickly opened the bag.

However, from inside, a brown-haired cat peeked out.

"Different....."

*Myaa*, cried the cat.

Since it was docile, I grabbed it by the scruff of its neck.

Its face was a size larger than Aina's cat. Its legs were large too.

It definitely wasn't a normal cat.

"Dad, this is....."

"A lynx (ilves)"

I thought so.

Maybe because it was hungry, it mewed in protest.

Troubling.....

“Maybe I’ll feed it milk using the baby bottle Haru-kun was using.”

“I had a baby bottle?”

“Yeah.”

Father headed to the storage shed outside the house with light footsteps.

In the middle, I realised that he didn’t bring a lantern with him, so I hurried chased after him.

As father said, there really was a baby bottle.

After disinfecting it, I fed it reindeer milk that was warmed to the same temperature as human skin.

Upon seeing the lynx, mother didn’t mind, just going, “my my,” while Sieg’s eyes opened wide.

Arno was imitating the cat, crying, “nyaanyaa.”

Maybe because the cat was rather famished, it was drinking milk at a frightening rate.

*Give me more milk!* It seemed to protest as it kneaded my belly.

Because its claws were sharp and tough, they got tangled with my clothes, causing them to get holes.

When I was disappointed, Sieg consoled me, saying that she’ll fix them later.

After drinking everything, when I gently tapped its back like how I did it to Arno, it let out a burp. If I don’t do this, babies have trouble, ending up in vomiting the milk.

Though I’m not sure about cats.

Grandfather was glaring at father with a stern expression.



“Oi, idiot son.”

“Yes?”

“What are you going to do about this cat.”

I also wanted hear the answer to that.

I can't raise it.

Lynxes grow to become bigger than our dogs. To feed that, just the cost of food will be amazing.

There's also another problem. Though lynxes are known to be relatively docile, they are still carnivores.

They're not a species that can live with people.

Even so, abandoning a baby cat is something I'm averse to.

“Don't worry. I'll be taking this to the zoo.”

“Ah, I see.”

I heard that there's a large zoo in the capital.

If it's there, they might be able to protect the lynx.

“Since I was planning to visit there on the way home, it worked out just right~”

I'm glad. That he didn't pick it up without thinking.

“Dad, how long will you be staying?”

“Three days?”

“Hm, I see.”

If it's just that, maybe we'll be able to accomodate them?

"Hey, Arno, you can't."

"Nyan, nya!"

He reached out for the cat out of curiosity, but that's... touching is out of question. Just a while ago, it tried to bite off cloth from my coat. Though it was impossible since it didn't have teeth yet.

"Oi, Lukas, it's your job to take care of the cat! Take proper care of it while we're staying."

"So it turns out like that in the end~"

"Of course!"

For now, the cat was to be taken care of by father in the living room.

Mother will be with him, so there shouldn't be problems.

Father went upstairs with the cat in his arms, while complaining, "I wanted to hug Ar-kun though~." Mother followed him.

"Ah, it feels as though a storm passed."

"Really, I am at a loss for words at his absurdity!"

After the commotion died down, we finally had some time to talk about recent events.

"So you started a store."

"Yes."

I told him about the remote land pub 'The Crimson Eagle' through a letter.

He told me that he's looking forward to visiting the store tomorrow.

He also told me about how father was doing over in his country.

It seems like grandfather getting stressed over the ever carefree father.

"Father is well, still, erm, what should I say,"

"Don't worry about returning home. I'll properly drag him back with me."

He said that with a serious expression while hugging my son, so I ended up laughing.

## Chapter 129 - A Sudden Visitor — Middle Part

The next day, when I went to the living room after dressing up, the whole family was gathered there.

Everyone's such an early bird.

"Good morning."

"Morning."

While having Arno on his lap, grandfather returned his greeting to me.

It appears that he's been fully prepared with his sleeves rolled up, looking forward to feeding Arno breakfast.

Sieg brought baby food from the kitchen.

The menu is a mixture of soft porridge cooked with vegetables and grains, boiled potatoes with cheese, and bean soup.

In addition, the soup isn't spiced and the ingredients are crushed. The dish will have plenty of the ingredients' flavour.

Arno's food is always handmade by Sieg. I can feel that the baby food making skills are getting better and better day by day.

It appears that grandfather studied how to feed baby food. When that was brought up, father made a dissatisfied expression. When I asked what happened, an unbelievable event was recounted.

"Father is cruel. He told me to help him with practicing feeding baby food. It's not as though it would help."

"It's because you are more troublesome than newborn babies."

In the end, it seems father ran away at full speed and even stayed outside the home for about a week because he was scared going back home.

“He really is useless.”

“It’s impossible, father.....”

The baby food should be cooled soon. Arno was trying to reach out for the spoon.

“Oh, are you hungry? Don’t worry, this gramps will feed you.”

“Dau!” replied Arno, energetically lifting up his hand. Grandfather put a bib on Arno with a smile.

First, he sat Arno down on a chair with a table.

Then the breakfast was set down on the table.

First, an adult tried it to see that it’s not hot.

“.....Looks alright.”

He placed a bit of the food on the spoon. Then, Arno opened his mouth. He gently moved the spoon.

Having been fed, Arno chewed and gulped.

“Sty!”

“Nn?”

“Grandfather, he says it’s tasty.”

“I-I see. Then that’s great.”

Grandfather patiently fed Arno. While cleaning the utensils, Sieg thanked him.

“Grandfather-in-law, thank you very much.”

“Don’t mention it.”

While having beads of sweat forming on his brows, grandfather looked satisfied. Seeing that, father made a request.

“Haru-kun, can I feed him at lunch——“

“You can’t!”

“Eh~”

“You need to take care of the cat you picked up!”

“The cat eh.....”

Last night, it seems like he spend the night with the lynx (ilves), but it didn’t go off to sleep well, mewling in search of its mother.

To those cries, approximately one person was influenced.

“Nyan-nya!”

After hearing about the lynx, Arno gained a passion about nyannyan.

However, unfortunately, he’s not allowed to touch large cats.

Even as he had breakfast, Arno kept imitating cat sounds.

Because it felt like his passion for cats was left unanswered, I decided to go out a bit.

I was heading for Emmerich and Aina’s house.

Emmerich was chopping wood in the front yard, so I talked to him.

“Emmerich, morning.”

“Morning, Ritzhard-kun. Arno-kun, you too.”

At Emmerich's feet, there was a pile of split wood.

Even with that amount, he still looked refreshed and did not tired at all.

That's a former soldier for you.

"What's wrong?"

"That is——"

Since Aina just came out of the house, I decided to request something.

"My, what do you need?"

"Well, I'd like you to show him Rossa."

I told the couple that Arno was interested in cats.

I told them that it's fine if he's not allowed to not touch, so I asked him he could just observe.

"If it's Rossa, she's sunbathing by the window. How about watching there?"

"Then, I'll let him see her from outside the window."

Aina's cat, Rossa is usually a quiet cat, but it's quite capricious, that when Emmerich tries to hug her she sometimes gives him sharp kitty punches.

So Emmerich told us that it might be dangerous to come into direct contact.

"Nyanya."

"Yes, let's go see nyannyan."

We went around to the back of the house and looked into the windows. There, we saw Rossa sunbathing.

*Arno, it's cat-san*, when I introduced her, he smiled sweetly.

However, Rossa had her back to the window. I tried calling her name, but she did not react.

What a cold cat-sama. However, I read about cat's habits in a book.

I picked some shepherd's purse growing on the ground and gently tapped the window.

Then, Rossa turned over.

The moment she looked over here, I quickly shook the grass. Rossa looked left and right, and started chasing after the grass with her eyes. It seems like that it's the cat's hunting instinct.

Arno looked happy to see Rossa.

"Nyan nyan!"

"It's cat-san~ isn't she cute~"

Arno had his hand on the window and traced his fingers on it.

Tired of chasing after the grass, Rossa yawned.

"Cat-san, I wonder what she's going to next~"

"Ka nya~"

Having the service spirit (?) Rossa placed her paw on the window.

Seeing the paw service, Arno chortled and clapped happily.

I thought he would be satisfied from that, but he had his hands outstretched towards Rossa and diligently squirmed his fingers. ....Could it be that he wants to touch her?

"Arno, don't touch Rossa. You'll get a kitty punch."

"Au~"



I slowly backed away with him, but his sight was set on Rossa.

Indeed, cats are lovely, but they are fickle so touching's not allowed.

I told my son about the sad state of affairs regarding the cat industry.

“Arno, sorry!”

“Nyan nya~~!”

I left Mansion Emmerich • Aina and started walking back home.

Because the cat disappeared, Arno started sulking.

.....Troubling. To think that Arno would be this interested in cats.

In the end, he started sobbing.

“Sorry, I’m really sorry!”

It will soon be time to open the sotre.

While thinking that I should leave Arno to Sieg, I hurriedly returned to my home.

When I opened the door and looked into the entrance, there was a figure of a white creature.

Seeing that, Arno stopped crying and gleamed his eye.

“Nyan nyan!!”

“.....Nyan nyan?”

The entity that turned around after realising our presence was not a white cat, but Teoporon who was wearing white bear fur.

“Nyan nya~n!”

“?”

After seeing Arno, Teoporon tilted his head.

“A-Arno, that’s not nyan nyan, but gau gau? .....Maybe not.”

*It’s a kind bear-san*, I told him. ....Well, it’s Teoporon.

Arno was fixated on the bear — Teoporon. Now, he looked as though he would die if he can’t touch.

“Erm, Teoporon, can you let him touch the fur a bit?”

With the hand not holding Arno, I conveyed my intention through gestures.

Teoporon nodded and turned around, showing his back to us.

“Teoporon, thank you! Arno, you can touch.”

When we got close to his back, Arno started fondling the soft bear fur.

“Nyan~~”

“This is, bear-san.”

“Air-san.”

“So close!”

Maybe because he felt the bear fur plenty enough, he started nodding off.

When I rocked him a bit after thanking Teoporon, he soon went off to sleep.

What a relief.

To think that the lynx that father brought would develop into this incident.

After returning home, when I talked about bear fur and Teoporon to grandfather, he was very disappointed, saying that he should have brought the bear fur. It seems like he didn't bring the bear fur coat that we gave him some time ago.

Afterwards, whenever Arno saw Teoporon, he said, “Bear!”

Noticing grandfather's intense gaze, he lent his white bear fur.

Grandfather, wearing white bear fur, looked very happy.

Having become half-naked because he lent the fur, Teoporon watched grandfather and Arno warmly.

## Chapter 130 - A Sudden Visitor — Last Part

In the afternoon, I invited grandfather to 'The Crimson Eagle'.

In this time of the day, men are out hunting, while women are busy preparing meals. Thus, the store doesn't have many people.

"You made a great store."

"Thanks to you."

He complimented the stores exterior and interior.

The fact that I made them in the image of Sieglinde was quickly found out.

"Please, sit over here."

"Hm."

When I glanced at Emmerich, who was watching the store, he came over to take orders.

While I was at it, I decided to introduce him to grandfather.

"Grandfather, this is Sieg's former colleague, Emmerich David-san."

Emmerich looked nervous as he made his introduction, but after hearing that grandfather is a marquess, his expression was even more strained.

It seems like grandfather recalls Emmerich's name.

"Hohh, so you're the kindhearted man that left his country and settled here."

Before, I had talked about Aina and Emmerich with grandfather. He was awed at Emmerich who chose to move to another country for his love.

I called Aina from the kitchen.

Grandfather asked Aina and Emmerich to take seats, and started chatting.

Since it was time for the shift to change, I decided to bring them some tea.

I was worried that Aina would be shy. I stole a peek at them.

The couple looked nervous, but they soon started chatting happily. Phew. That's a relief.

In the evening, many people start coming. Sieg and mother came over to help.

Grandfather bid farewell to Aina and Emmerich and returned home with Arno.

When the evening bell tolled, customers rushed in here. Soldiers or merchants come after their work is finished.

A little later, village men also visited to get drinks.

Aina's special snacks quickly started running out. It seems like having sweet things is booming now, and people placed orders for pies and cookies just before the store closes.

We closed when the last bell (around 8) rings. After paying up, the customers returned. The baked goods for taking away were all sold out.

After closing, Sieg cleaned the chairs, tables and the floor. As for myself, I prepared for tomorrow.

I kept mincing vegetables and meat.

Today's soup will be a soup of spring root vegetables and reindeer meat. I baked the pie using blueberry jam.

An hour later, Sieg seemed to be finished cleaning too, and was wiping off the sweat from her brows.

"Thank you for your hard work."

"Yeah, Ritz, you too."

“Shall we go home?”

“Sure.”

*It's dangerous at night*, I made up an adequate excuse and held Sieg's hand.

Her hand was still warm, and it felt soothing to touch.

When I glanced at her, she looked slightly fatigued.

“Sieg, isn't it tough helping out with the store?”

I felt sorry for making her work for my whims.

However, Sieg unexpectedly replied that she's enjoying it.

“I felt surprised that I could serve customers. I think I have quite a diverse set of potential.”

“I see.”

“Moreover, it feels nice to see the villagers smiling from eating Ritz's food.”

“.....Mm.”

You're going to make me cry, Sieglinde.

I wanted to shout, “Uwaaaaa, I love you——!” right here, but it would disturb everyone so I didn't.

“Thank you, Sieg.”

To that, she smiled gracefully.

Never before had I been gladder that my night vision is good.



After returning, when I opened the front door, I was greeted by grandfather's shouting.

"You are an idiot, a ridiculous idiot!"

Just what is happening? I hurried to the living room.

There, I saw my grandfather ready for battle and my father ready to run away.

"Do you realise whose mouth is saying that!"

"Father, I'll be back soon."

"You say that, but you're thinking of running away!"

"That's not true. Just, I'm just curious about the forest during night....."

"I don't want to hear your excuse!"

Father was getting a beating with grandfather's cane.

Arno and mother weren't here. They're probably upstairs, sleeping.

Panicking, I rushed in between them. The weapon, the cane was confiscated by Sieg with dextrous movements.

"Ritzhard, don't stop me! Today for sure, I'll punish him!"

"Please, let's calm down."

"Grandfather-in-law, how about some coffee?"

Sieg offered some coffee that mother must have prepared to grandfather.

We offered father a seat as well.

After calming down, when I asked what the commotion was about, I learned that father said that he wanted to go out to the forest at night. To that, grandfather suspected that he'll be running away.

“Father, I’m not going to run away anymore.”

“I can’t trust you. Plus, Ritzhard said that the forest’s dangerous at night, yet you want to go there? I can only say that you’re mad.”

“It’ll take only a moment.”

“You’re still saying that!”

I calmed down grandfather who stood up and had his hands clenched into fists. It was too heated for a father-son fight.

However, once father is interested in something, he doesn’t listen.

Thus, there can only be one solution.

“Dad, let’s go with me.”

“Eh, Haru-kun, really?”

“What!?”

If we’re armed and with dogs, beasts won’t approach. I’ve got good night vision, so there shouldn’t be anything too dangerous. Though, my maternal grandfather, Rikhard, forbade people from going into the forests at night. Well, it should be alright.

“Ritzhard, you spoil your father too much!”

“It’ll be the first and last time I’m doing this for father, so please forgive me.”

When I stood up and bowed, grandfather clicked his tongue.

He clammed up and did not say anything in response.

I gave Sieg a look asking her to take care of grandfather, and left with father.

I took a lantern, we headed to the night forest.





The forest at night was dark and felt strange. The green that can be seen in the warm light of day cannot be found anywhere.

It felt like a different world.

Father walked carefully, checking the chirps of insects and the soft early summer breeze.

In the note he held, he was jotting things down. I wondered if he could see properly in the dark.

As I thought, he wanted to come here for research purposes.

In the middle, the atmosphere changed drastically.

I had chills all over my body, so I looked around me.

“——!”

A little way off, I noticed something absurd, so I crouched down on the spot.

I hugged the dogs tightly so that they won't bolt out.

“Haru-kun's what's wrong?”

“There's a brown bear.”

“.....Wo~w”

If we stay still here, it will leave.

From the sudden encounter, my heart pounded loudly.

“What was it doing?”

“It was scratching its back against a birch tree.”

“I see~”

He swiftly took out his note. Why would he need information on what a bear does when its back itches.....

“Hey, Haru-kun, what do brown bears eat?”

“Deer, boars.....”

“Hehh, so that’s why it’s so big.”

There’s a large bear in the forest, but father was really carefree. He really has a good personality.

“Haru-kun, shall we return when the bear disappears?”

“That would be the best.”

.....Good. Had we proceed in the forest, the result would have been that I would have to carry father home.

I thought that we would continue in silence, but in a rare moment, father spoke to me.

“——Haru-kun, you’re amazing.”

“Eh?”

“You’re being a proper father.”

“Eh, why so suddenly? I’m just doing it normal. ....Dad, what’s up?”

“I just thought that.”

I wonder if the fantastical night forest makes people sentimental?

It was rare to see father show this much interest for someone else.

“Haru-kun, aren’t you scared?”

“About what?”

“That you’ll make someone unhappy from your words or actions.”

Father told me a story.

Of when he just started living in the village, providing people with various information.

“What if the disease doesn’t get cured, what if farming fails, what if the herb is toxic. I was scared of many things.”

Father wasn’t a professional. He merely provided information he read from books.

He told me that it was unbearably frightening, to not know what the results will be.

Also, he did not know how to make his family happy.

“It was not written on any of the books in the house.....”

“So that’s why you left the village.”

Father nodded.

“I’m also, scared.”

I also have fear that someone might become unhappy from anything I try.

However, most of those things just end up being undue worries.

“Dad, I think the point is, that it all depends on the feelings.”

“There’s something like that?”

“There is.”

Happiness does not try to run away nor hide.

“For example, the weather being nice, flowers blooming in the garden, the breakfast soup being tasty.....”

“So, appreciating normal things as happy things, is it.”

“Yes.”

Thinking that I would make someone unhappy is a fruitless thing to do, and fear makes one depressed. It takes away space in the heart to feel happiness.

“Haru-kun, you’re amazing after all.”

“I told you I’m normal.”

“Indeed, you’re Richelle’s son.”

“I’m also your son.”

“.....Yes. Right.”

Father might have felt many things after getting abandoned by mother, maybe even having changes in his heart.

I felt that it was nice to bare his feelings like this.

When we stopped talking, I slowly stood up.

The bear was no longer at the birch tree.

“——Let’s go back.”

“Right.”

The father and son walked side-by-side.

When I looked up at the sky, the starry scene was spread out across the sky.



The next day, father and grandfather left for the capital of this country.

Of course, he took the baby lynx (ilves) he picked up in front of the fort.

In front of the door, with mother, Sieg and Arno, we saw them off.

Grandfather told us to stay healthy, and told us that he will be writing soon. He also thanked us for taking care of my father.

“You fool of a son, you also thank Ritzhard.”

“I know.”

First, he apologised to Sieg for being a burden, and held out a dagger that he apparently received from a chieftain of a tribe during his travels.

“Such a precious thing,”

“Please protect the family.”

“.....If it’s that, then yes. Thank you very much.”

Why did he give a dagger to Sieg to protect the family. I doubted my father’s sense.

After that, he looked at mother.

“Richelle-san.”

“Yes.”

“Please take care of our family.”

“Yes.”

Mother was bowing in silence. It was the first time seeing her like that.

“Arno-kun, you too, thank you.”

He softly stroked Arno’s head and blessed him to grow up healthy.

“Ritzhard-kun.”

“Yes?”

It seems like he has something for as well. I didn’t know what I should say, so ended up stiffening.

Father did an unexpected thing.

He spread his arms wide and hugged his thirty-year-old son.

Then, he whispered one phrase into my ears.

“——I’m sorry.”

There were many things, so I didn’t know what he was apologising for.

Regardless, I said, “It’s alright,” and forgave him.

Like so, the tempestuous father and son left.

I saw that back off with a different feeling from before.

## Chapter 131 - Meat Day!

The most delicious season for meat would be winter. Animals fatten up in autumn, the season of harvest, and also put on more fat to prepare for the cold. The meat becomes firm and tasty.

In contrast, meat in summer is thin, and the quality is bad.

Well, hunting is prohibited in summer so we don't eat game then though.

Though we can't hunt meat, we have fish from the rivers and lakes as the main source of food.

In 'The Crimson Eagle', we change the menu depending on the season.

Meatball pasta is not sold until autumn, and instead we have smoked meat and tomato pasta. The fish dishes consist of steamed, fried, or braised dishes. I thought them up with Aina every day.

Still, there are days in summer when I want to have some meat.

When I really want meat, I butcher one of my reindeer or buy meat from the store.

In the year that Sieg came, I butchered one reindeer, but I'd like to keep them all this year.

The merchants that visit the village bring chickens or pigs, all whole.

If possible, I want try various kinds of meat.

Thus, I decided to go to the market in the port.

"Thus, Sieg, let's go to the port to buy some meat!"

I asked while holding Sieg's hand.

"Ah, of course, with Arno and mother."

"Ritz, e-erm——"

Sieg looked troubled. Maybe I shouldn't have suddenly sprung this on her, I was reflecting, but.....

“Ritchan, go with Linde-chan, just the two of you.”

“!?”

I got surprised at the sudden voice from behind.

Right behind me, there was mother holding Arno in her arms. I didn't realise it at all.

I don't hold Sieg's hands when I'm around my family, so it's very embarrassing.

Sieg could see mother. So that's why she looked troubled.....

Mother delivered a finishing blow.

“Isn't your mummy and daddy very nice to each other?”

——Mother, it's embarrassing, so please stop!! Don't say that to Arno!!

My face felt hot. I had been completely off guard.

“Mum will be watching the house with Arno-chan, so you two can go.”

*The sun's strong today, so it's hard for Arno anyway,* mother added.

“Ah, right, that is true, come to think of it. What about you Sieg?”

“I can't leave Arno.....”

Mother told Sieg to leave the lullabies to her.

“Linde-chan, I'd be happy if you let yourself get spoiled sometimes.”

“Eh, yes..... then,”



“It’s decided! Let’s go Sieg.”

Mother told us that we should have some good food and spend a relaxing time.

Promptly, I dressed up and headed for the port city.

In front of the door, mother and Arno saw us off.

“Arno, is there anything you wish?”

“Bear!”

“Ah, yeah, if there is.”

Arno’s passion for bears did not know when to stop.

Mother told him that they should read bear picture books.

A few days ago, many picture books with bears in them arrived from grandfather.

“Then, mother, Arno, I’ll be off.”

“Ye~s, have a safe trip.”

“See you!”

In mother’s arms, Arno also waved at us.

Sieg and I also waved back as we headed off.



There was only Sieg and me in the carriage headed for the port city.

“This kind of reminds me of the ‘Sausage and Beer Festival’, doesn’t it~”

“Right.”

Today, Sieg wore women’s traditional clothing.

Iyaa, this is beautiful, this is a sight for sore eyes. It’s a feast for my eyes. Though, the usual Sieg is extremely beautiful as well!

“It’s Arno’s birthday next month, so it’d be nice if we could get a nice present.”

“Right.”

After Arno was born, a year passed in a blink.

Watching my son grow healthily was very enjoyable.

“Ah, this is bliss~”

Leaning against Sieg’s shoulder, I ended up muttering that.

She smiled at me and stroked my hair.

When we arrived at the port, we looked around the market.

Vegetables, fruits, bread, snacks, flowers, etc. We also visited places other than food stores, such as hat shops and clothes shops.

“Ah, bear found!”

In a toy store, there were teddy bears.

“Sieg, what do you think?”

“Looks good.”

It's neither too big nor too small, just perfect. It was a bear with cute eyes.

Looks like something handmade by an artisan. It was rather pricey as it was an imported good, but since it looked good I decided to buy it as a present for Arno.

So that the smell of food won't permeate it, I put it in a leather bag.

When we passed the general stores and strolled in front of the bottled goods stores, we came across food vendors.

The stalls gave off the fragrance of grilling meat, the purpose of this visit.

I did have breakfast, but maybe because I moved a lot in the market my stomach was already appealing that it was hungry.

"What should we do. Would a restaurant be better?"

"I'm fine with anything."

"Then, I want to see Sieg's face while eating, so let's go to a restaurant."

While holding Sieg's hand, we decided to go to the on board restaurant I visited before with mother.

Because it was not time for lunch yet, it was empty inside the store. We were led to a seat by a window looking out into the sea.

"How pretty~"

The figure of Sieg staring out the window, that is. I only thought such things today. Because, the two of us are alone.

"Ritz, did you decide yet?"

*I was looking at you*, I couldn't say that, so I hastily chose a dish.

"It might be nice having beef for a change."

"Right."

Sieg's country has quite a lot of pork dishes. When I had been saying at the Wattins' place, beef came out only once a week, or less than that.

For some reason, I felt like eating plenty of meat, so I chose that meat that is only just roasted.

Sieg ordered beef cheeks braised in wine. I chose thickly sliced charcoal roast beef.

As we discussed what we should do for Arno's birthday party, the dishes came.

The smell of meat roused my appetite.

After praying to the Spirit, I immediately started eating.

Into the thick slice of beef, I plunged my knife.

The beef, being from a domesticated animal, was astonishingly soft. Even without putting in much strength, the meat was cut easily.

The juice from the meat came out as well.

I sliced it into a bite size and had it with some orange sauce.

"Ooh, what a light taste."

It was light taste different from that of berry sauce. I think I could have it when I'm tired in summer. It also went well with the meat juice.

Anyhow, the beef did not taste strong at all, and was tender and delicious.

“Sieg, how’s yours?”

“Aa, I think it’s the best wine braised dish I had.”

“I see.”

Sieg scooped some up with a spoon and offered it to me.

Could she be telling me to say ‘ah~’!?

“R-Really?”

“Yeah.”

I gladly received her goodwill and had the wine braised meat she shared with me.

“Ah it’s delicious!”

Because Sieg fed me, it was too delicious.

“Then, in return, I too——“

While I was carving some meat, fishermen sat down at the table next to ours.

Flustered from surrounding eyes, I decided to just place the meat on a small dish.

After our meal, we headed for the market to get some meat.

“What should we do about the meat?”

“Why don’t we buy a little bit of each?”

“Right. However, even beef has a lot of parts. I don’t which is good.....”

“How the cheek meat, like the one we had before?”

“That might be nice.”

At a small butchery, I bought beef cheeks, chicken, and pork shoulders.

Since the flavour of wine braised meat would be too strong for Arno, I headed for the vegetable store to buy things for making braised vegetables.

The ride back was filled full with people, but I was stuck close to Sieg so it was a nice situation.

Like so, our shopping trip for meat ended.

“Ah, the doll, what should we do?”

“Come to think of it, we promised that we’ll buy a bear as a gift.”

“I was thinking of giving that on his birthday, but it should be fine if we gave it to him today.”

“Right.”

In the end, we gave the teddy bear to him immediately.

I started planning to make a carved wooden bear for his birthday, or something.

Arno seemed to have taken a liking to the teddy bear on first sight, and hugged it.

That figure is so cute!!

——Like so, our holiday passed pleasantly and delightfully.

## Chapter 132 - Luca and the Loving Husbands' Mushroom Picking

In the morning, my mother commanded me to go out and pick some mushrooms.

*Why me?* I thought, but apparently my little brother's wife has a baby. Since pregnant women shouldn't go out to the forest, the job fell on me.

I think the work that my sister-in-law had been doing will now have to be done by me. Tomorrow, I might have to go picking berries.

Well, it is a joyous event, so I'm fine.

With a large basket holding leftovers from breakfast, I headed for the exit of the village.

At the reception window of the fort, I chanced upon a familiar face.

That person had a smile friendlier than anyone else's and was waving.

"Ah, it's Luca!"

It was the lord. Behind him, there was another man.

It was Aina's husband. He's a foreigner, and I can't quite recall his name. I remember the village ladies getting excited that he was cute. I thought that it's because he's handsome, but it apparently his way of talking is what makes him cute, or so. Though I can't understand why a poor language skill would be cute.

"Luca, are you going to the forest too?"

"Yes, so?"

"Then, let's go together."

"Why?"

"The more the merrier?"

What's up with this lord. What did he eat to become this simple and innocent?

He made a refreshing smile that belied his thirty years.

Before I noticed it, he was pulling my hand.

“Uwa, stop!”

“It’s alright, it’s alright.”

What’s alright! I don’t get you! Rather, the lord is quite strong!

I left the fort by getting dragged out.



The midsummer forest was lush with greenery, and the bountiful nature glistened.

“Ah, right, Luca, use this.”

The lord suddenly turned around and handed me a bottle filled with some liquid. When I asked what it was, he told me that it was insect repellant.

“There’s something like that?”

“Apparently. I learned it from my father.”

When I opened the lid, a strong smell attacked my nose. Most likely, it’s mint.

There are many bugs in this period. When one returns from the forest, there are many itchy bug bites.

“Is it really effective?”



“Yes, it is. Right, Emmerich?”

Emmerich or whatever who was talked to silently nodded.

*Well, better than nothing*, I thought as I tried it.

“It hurts if it goes into the eyes, so be careful.”

“Alright.”

He told me that it’s good to apply it where there’s exposed skin, so I applied it on my neck and hands.

When I applied the repellent, it was quite chilly. I’ll have to endure the stinging scent.

Though, it would be amazing if it really was effective.

“Did you apply it? Then, let’s go.”

We resumed our walk for mushrooms.

I don’t have much confidence about picking mushrooms, and it has been that way from a long time ago.

First of all, I can’t understand where they grow. I did hear that they grow in damp places, but that’s hard to find.

What’s more, there are quite a lot of poisonous mushrooms. There are many ones that look similar to edible ones so it’s annoying to differentiate them.

I looked around for mushrooms while walking, but I could only see colourful poisonous mushroom——.

“Ah, there!”

The lord gestured that there are mushrooms.

The place of discovery is under a fallen tree. The tree had already rotted, and the inside was hollow. The mushrooms were growing there.

“There’s quite a lot. Why don’t we take them?”

It seems like the lord will be sharing the mushrooms he found.

The three of us crouched down and picked the mass of mushrooms.

“Fallen trees, stumps and places under fallen leaves do not get sunlight. While it might seem difficult to see where mushrooms grow, it is easy this way.”

Emmerich was writing something on a piece of paper while listening to the lord talk. It seems like he’s writing about the characteristics of mushrooms. When I took a peek, the picture was very good so I got surprised.

Afterwards, the lord continued through the forest, picking more mushrooms.

“Luca, from here, it’s a secret place.”

“?”

*What is it?* Even when I asked that, he merely continued further into the forest.

We walked by the riverbeds and arrived at the spot I usually fished at.

“What about this place?”

“A little further.”

“?”

Emmerich didn't seem to know either, as he had a clueless expression. ....Well, he always looks absentminded though.

When we walked a little further, there was a great amount of mushrooms growing on a slope.

It was a black mushroom called 'cornet'. I think it's called so because it looks like a black trumpet.

"What is this!"

"Isn't it amazing~?"

The end of the slope led into a deep river. It would be tough if one slipped by accident.

"It's somewhat dangerous, so I could only come sometimes."

The lord explained about the mushroom to Emmerich.

"These taste good when dried and put into meatballs. They're also good if fried with butter and eaten with meat."

Hearing that, I ended up unconsciously drooling.

Of course, cornet tastes nice. However, they only grow in the wildest parts of the forest, or so my mum and my sister-in-law had said. I was always ordered to pick some when I go out fishing, but I never discovered them until now.

"Now then, let's get as much as we can before it's time for lunch."

He said that it's fine to get as much as want, so we started picking cornets.

When the baskets were filled to the brim with mushrooms, my stomach started growling.

The lord suggested that we should start eating.

“Luca, did you bring some food?”

“Ah, yeah.”

The well-prepared lord brought a quilt from his house.

It was laid down on a sunny meadow and the three of us opened our packed lunches.

The lord boasted about his wife’s food. He showed us the content, but it was clear that she didn’t cook that well. To be honest, the leftovers I have are better. However, the lord looked at his food very happily.

“Emmerich, you had yours made by Aina, right?”

“Aina-chan, woke up early, and prepared, for me.”

It was the usually reserved Emmerich, but when it’s about his wife he speaks very well. Using our language, one which is foreign to him, he talked about his wife.

Smiling, no, grinning, is it——.

Seeing the two of them talk about their wife’s food, it felt disappointing for some reason.

Though I can’t tell why.

“Huh, Emmerich, looks like you’ve got bear meat, where’d you get that?”

Could he have hunted one!?

When I stared at the airhead-like man, he shook his head.

“Aina-chan, received, bear.”

“Could it be from Teoporon?”

“Right.”

Apparently, Emmerich’s place and the martial race family are quite friendly.

Come to think of it, I think I saw her (Miruporon) with Aina, or whatever her name was, rather often recently.

The two of them acted on their own for a long time, so it was a surprise that they became friends.

Though it might be that lonely people are drawn to each other.

As we ate while trading the contents of our lunch, lunchtime was over soon.

The baskets were full, so we soon returned to the village.

Before we could get into the fort, the lord warned me.

“Luca, the place where cornets grow is dangerous, so take someone with you. If possible, with another man.”

“Alright.”

“If you ask, I’ll accompany you. Emmerich’s fine too.”

“I’ll invite you if I feel like it.”

When I said that, he smiled and pounded my shoulder.

——Seriously, you’re strong!

“Come to think of it, how was the repellent?”

“Ah, I don’t think I got stung anywhere.”

“I see, that’s nice.”

The lord told me how to easily make repellent.

Since it was just having herbs placed in alcohol for some time, I think I could make some myself.

“Don’t forget to shake it once a day. Also, store it somewhere dark.”

“Okay.”

The lord and Emmerich seems like they’ll be chatting with the soldiers at the fort.

For now, I thanked them for the mushroom picking trip and parted ways.

The village women looked busy. They have to pick mushrooms and berries then process them, so it’s the busiest period in the year for them.

I strolled through the village amidst that.

Since cornets are tasty, I thought of taking a little to her house.

As I don’t want her to feel indebted, I won’t give it to her personally. Leaving it in the postbox should do. Then, her old man would just think that some faraway neighbour gave it to him.

I placed some cornets in a pouch and put it in the postbox while checking that there wasn’t anyone else around.

When I quickly got away from the house and was sighing, Miruporon suddenly appeared in front of me. I was so surprised that I almost jumped up into the air.

To quell by rampaging heart, I ended up saying things I didn’t really mean.

It was surprising enough to just meet her, but Miruporon was wearing the traditional clothes of this village.

That was, well, what should I say, cute.

Our eyes met, bringing me back to reality.

Miruporon looked absentminded too, so I grabbed her shoulder lightly, asking if she heard me, to hide my true feelings.

Then, Miruporon who usually did not react, made an expression of surprise.

It was rather frightening, so I ended up stepping back.

Miruporon told me that I grew taller.

I knew that I surpassed her height some time ago, but I didn't know Miruporon learned to speak the language of this country.

When did she learn it?

Rather, when I realised that she would have understood those harsh things I have been saying, I felt as though I was struck by lightning.

Just what had I been saying. But it's too late to regret.

I decided to apologise to her after organising my thoughts and feelings.

From that day, I fell victim to Miruporon's counterattacks.

It seems like she learned the language from her new friend Aina, who is Emmerich's wife.

Since she could only speak a little, she asked me a lot of questions and chatted with me.

I was thinking of apologising to her, but when I'm in front of Miruporon I can't get myself to be honest.

It looked like she was enjoying talking to me with words that she was not very familiar with.

I was surprised at how unexpectedly talkative she was.

Also, that clumsy speech and tone, was also, well, cute.

——A little later, I realised that I was thinking the same thing as the village ladies.



## Chapter 133 - Final Chapter: The Snow Country Hunting Life of the Northern Nobleman and the Raptor Wife

This summer, we are holding a long-awaited event.

Arno's birthday!

Turning one soon, our son has been growing very well, now being able crawl a little and voice out somewhat. I can't afford to miss any moment of his growth.

In the midst of that enjoyable life, a surprising letter arrived.

It appears that father will be returning home near the day of Arno's birthday.

I think he came rather recently, but maybe he got homesick (?) or something. I'm not sure.

I remember feeling uneasy living with him, but I'll have to compromise.

Sieg and I consoled each other that we'll do our best.

Recently, we've been returning to normal life.

'The Crimson Eagle' is run with Aina and Emmerich at the core with mother and Sieg helping out. We'll be hiring more people soon.

The beekeeping's a slow process. I don't have the amount to sell stuff yet.

Well, I'm thinking of working on it steadily.

Today, I went out to the forest to pick berries with Sieg after a long time. As for Arno, father was looking after him, right after he returned home. I felt somewhat uneasy, but mother was home too so I think it should be fine.

For Sieg, it was a berry picking trip after a long time, and her second summer in the remote land.

Today, since we're having Arno's birthday, we'll have to put in more effort into our berry picking for baking cake.

We reached the place full of berries located deep in the lush greenery.

While talking with Sieg, I hand-picked the berries.

When I looked at the watch out of thought of hunger, it was time for lunch.

“Sieg, let’s have lunch.”

“It’s already time for that?”

“Indeed.”

I had the packed lunch mother and Sieg made, and moved to a open meadow.

“Come to think of it, was it around this area where we saw the white flowers?”

“Ah, yeah yeah. Want to go see them?”

A frail flower that blooms only in summer, ‘the star of the forest’.

It seems that she remembered the flower we saw together in our first year of marriage.

We worked our way through the bushes to reach a field of flowers full of starflowers.

“Ooh, flowers!”

“They look splendid.”

Elegant white flowers were in full bloom. They were prettiest I ever saw.

We sat down on the grass and had lunch while enjoying the flowery view.

The packed lunch consisted of ham sandwich and berry juice.

“——Mm, delicious.”

The ham was made from the combined effort of Sieg and me.

The procedure was simple.

Herbs, spices, salt and the like are used to season the meat. Then that meat is wrapped in clean cloth and tied at the left and right like candy. Above that, it's tied with some string for storage.

It is then left for about a week, and boiled for about two hours.

The cloth is then removed from the boiled pork meat, and it is completed by draining the water and smoking the meat.

I learned this from father-in-law, and it is amazingly delicious.

Raw ham takes a while so I didn't try it yet, but I want to try making some if I have some time.

I still can't forget the taste of the three-year-old ham I had then.

Even after having our meal, Sieg and I kept looking at the flowers.

"These flowers, mother likes them too."

"I see. Then, shall we take some back?"

"That might be nice."

I stood up and reached a hand out to Sieg, pulling her up.

"——Uwa!"

"!?"

I slipped, and the moment I pulled her up I fell backwards.

Worst of all, I ended up dragging her with me.

I hugged her tightly so that she won't get hurt.

The flowerbed acted as a cushion, so it didn't hurt that much.

“Sieg, I’m sorry, are you alright!?”

“Ah.....”

Apologetically, I stiffened up after falling down.

When I was about to get up, I noticed something strange with Sieg.

She was shaking her shoulders for some reason.

“S-Sieg?”

I thought she was hurt, but it was just her laughing.

When I asked what was so funny, it seems like the two of us falling together was funny.

“S-Sorry, I’ll get up now.”

“Wait, a little more like this.”

I’m surrounded in summer flowers, and there’s Sieg in my arms. What a splendid situation.

Thinking that, I relaxed for a while.

“Aren’t I heavy?”

“Not at all.”

“Then that’s fine.”

Staying silent for a while, I enjoyed the air of the forest, the scent of the flowers and the chirping of the birds.

Of course, I fully enjoyed hugging Sieg as well.

“When I first came here——“

“Nn.”

“Ritz, didn’t you lie down on the ground?”

“Like now?”

“Right.”

It seems like Sieg was curious about why I was rolling around in the forest floor.

“Now I know. If I am like this, I feel as if I can sense all the glistening of the forest.”

“Ah, yes. That might be true!”

If I am lying on the grass like this, I can feel the whole forest.

It seems like I’ve been unconsciously enjoying the summer forest.

Sieg and I, the two of us enjoyed the lush nature, then left after picking some starflowers.



Before going into the village, I greeted the soldiers on duty at the fort window.

“Welcome back, your lordship.”

“I’m back.”

It was Captain Artonen’s shift today.

“Today’s the young master’s birthday.”

“Yes.”

“Nice. This is something everyone from the fort prepared.”

“My, thank you!”

Believe it or not, the fort soldiers had prepared a birthday present for Arno.

It seems like it’s a picture book. I thanked them with Sieg.

“Your lordship, it seems it will start getting busier.”

“Right. Let’s work hard.”

When I held my hand out to Captain Artonen, he firmly shook my hand.

With the present for Arno at my side, I headed back home.

As ever, the village ladies were busy.

I decided to visit the shop on my way back. I spoke to the shop lady.

“Welcome..... Rather, if it isn’t the lord.”

“Good afternoon.”

Seeing the two of us, she commented, “You get along well as always.” “Thanks to you,” I ended up grinning.

While I had my cheek loose, we started talking about the wooden bears.

I came to reality in a snap.

“I’ll report in three days.”

“I’ll leave it to you.”

“Alright.”

At the shop, I bought ingredients for making cake.

Next door, 'The Crimson Eagle' was on its regular holiday today.

From outside, I could see Aina and Emmerich, so I went in.

"These too, are delicious. Very much."

"Like I said, that's not—— ah, my lord."

On the table, there were large amounts of snacks. It seems like the two of them were having a tasting session.

Aina told me I came at a good time.

"This person, he just says everything tastes good! There's no meaning to the tasting!"

"B-But, Aina-chan's food is all delicious,"

"That's not helping!"

Looks like Aina's food all tastes good for Emmerich.

I felt pleased at seeing the two of them.

"So, my lord, you try some too—— actually, it's Arno's birthday today, right?"

"I see."

"Right. Then, try asking the lady next door."

"Sorry about that."

"No, it's alright."

Aina and Emmerich offered words of celebration. It seems like there are snacks for celebrating prepared.

Even as I made stops, I managed to return home. At the front yard, people were preparing for the birthday party.

There were quilts laid out, with cushions for everyone.

Today, I invited the Rango family and Luca.

“You’re back?”

“Ah, Luca.”

Luca and Miruporon were hauling a large fish on a wide dish.

“Uwa, what an amazing fish. Where’d you get this?”

When I asked about the big fish, Miruporon happily explained.

“Father, and Luca, caught it.”

“Rather than catch, it was more like grabbing it by force.”

It seems like Luca went fishing with Teoporon. I wonder when they became friendly.

*Good gracious, to get along with all the family, what a good child Luca is,* I thought.

“Ritz, let’s make the cake now.”

“Ah, right!”

It was soon time for the birthday party.

I went behind the house and started making cake at the outdoors kitchen with Sieg.



First, I got some eggs from the coop.

While Sieg measured the ingredients, I whisked the egg whites so that they would foam.

For soft cake, proper whipping is very important.

Since it was cake for Arno, I put in only a little sugar. Instead, I put in a lot of sweet berries.

Flour and melted butter was mixed and poured into a mould, after which it was baked.

The cake came out well.

When we returned to the place of the birthday party, there was plenty of food on top the quilts.

It looks like Ruruporon outdid herself. There was a feast.

“Ritchan, did you get the cake?”

“Yup, nicely done!”

I was told to place it in the centre.

Arno looked happy as he sat on the lap of the lovely bear man (Teoporon).

Everything was prepared.

Everyone sat down and Ruruporon handed out drinks.

First, I greeted everyone that gathered.

“Okay~ today, the sunlight is nice, and I thank you for gathering for my son Arno’s first birthday.”

Since there are the white nights in summer, the sun won’t set.

I told everyone to enjoy it without worrying about the time.

After giving a toast, I lifted the kuksa holding berry juice.

Using freshly picked berries, the juice was sweet and sour and very tasty.

Today's guest of honour, Arno was eating well maybe because he got hungry.

Ruruporon helped him eat with a smile.

Some food fell onto Teoporon's legs, but he did not look troubled at all. He would just watch Arno, his cheeks loosening at rare moments.

Miruporon tried to feed Luca cheese, but he refused with his face all red and flushed. Well, he is at that age after all.

Mother was cooking something else. Sieg helped too.

Even at a time like, father was diligently writing something.

In the middle, he was scolded by mother eat a bit.

A little later, I went to pick Arno up.

I thanked Teoporon and Ruruporon, then started walking while holding his hand.

Arno could start waddling now. The appearance is too cute!

I returned to my seat and sat him on my lap.

Thinking that the cake should have cooled by now, I made a small slice for him.

“Asty!”

“I see~, so it's tasty~”

*Mummy and daddy made it together~.* When I told him that, Arno smiled sweetly. He's just so cute.

It seems like he liked the cake, since he finished eating on piece very quickly.

Since he was now full, he started nodding off.

Watching that was never tiring.

“Ritz, what’s wrong?”

“Hm?”

It appears that I’ve been moved while watching Arno.

I realised that my eyes had grown teary.

“Sieg.”

“What is it?”

“Later, I have something to say to everyone.”

I wanted to give her my thanks. Also, that I could continue to be in her care.

“Please continue taking care of me. My wife.”

Then, Sieg returned something too.

“I’m still inexperienced, but please take care of me too. ....My husband.”

The two of us looked at each other and smiled.

Today, the white night sun would not set, and the dishes filled with the blessings of the forest was delicious. Arno was in my arms, while Sieg was next to him.

*What a wonderful birthday party, I thought.*

It's been three years since I married Sieg.

The surroundings changed greatly.

The busy days continued, but I can work hard as long as I have my family.

I couldn't help but think that.

——Hunting, gathering and eating. That's all there is, but these are lovely days.

Our life would continue on.

The Snow Country Hunting Life of the Northern Nobleman and the Raptor Wife — And they lived happily ever after.

## Afterword

“The Snow Country Hunting Life of the Northern Nobleman and the Raptor Wife” is now finished.

How many final chapters have you written!? You might say, but it’s really finished now.

It became the longest one out of all my works.

This work received an award at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Elysium Novel Competition, and it was even published into a book. *You never know what might happen in life*, I recall thinking back then.

I’m very thankful to the one in charge of design and illustrations, Akaneko (あかねこ)-sensei. No words of gratitude will be enough.

Also, I think working with an editor affected my work a lot.

Just a few words of advice could evolve into a story. I received a lot of help.

The second last line of the final chapter, “Hunting, gathering and eating! That’s all there is, but these are lovely days.” That line was thanks to my editor.

The moment I saw that, I immediately liked it, thinking that it captured the spirit of the novel.

I asked for permission and used it for the final chapter.

The people I want to thank the most are the readers that continued to support me.

Thanks to your support, I could continue until the end, and I even managed to get the novel published.

Thank you very much.

I’ll continue to write stories that will satisfy you.

Thank you so much!

Finally, here are some pictures that Akaneko-sensei drew:













## Translator's Afterwords

Hello everyone, this is Kudarajin (AKA Christina).

It's already been half a year since I started translating, and I've now finished translating my second series. I've come quite a long way, if I say so myself.

I felt many things as I worked on this series.

The series, though I am just a translator, felt like my own work. I loved it and hated it as I chewed through the words.

I took up translating this series since I loved it. Back then, I had only read up to the end of the second volume. It was such a sweet story, that I felt that I had to share it with more people.

Now, about half a year later, I finished working on it. I still have three more extra chapters to go, but the main series is finished now.

I would like to thank the readers for their continued support. The likes and the comments instilled me with no little joy, and also imbued in me the strength and willpower to continue seeing the series to the end.

My only complaint might be that it would have been nicer were I to have more people commenting.

Anyhow, now my main project is finished. I'm thinking of going on a break for about a fortnight after finishing the three extra chapters of this series.

For the readers of my other projects, please do not worry, as I will keep working on 'The Wolf Lord's Lady' and 'At the Northern Fort'.

I hope you will continue taking care of me.

Edit: Heh, funny that this is the 200th post.